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LAW OF THE SEA

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to your report on the law of the sea (A/51/645) and state the following regarding paragraphs 260 and 261 of the said report.

The report on the law of the sea (A/51/645) was prepared and submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, who bears sole responsibility for it. As such, Member States of the United Nations are not in a position to grant recognition of or support for its content. Nor does the content of the report affect the position of Japan.

In view, however, of the fact that a letter from the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China stating the position of his Government concerning the said paragraphs has been made a part of this report in the form of an addendum to it, I am obliged to state the following position of my Government in this regard:

> "In view of the history of the Senkaku Islands and in the light of the relevant principles of international law, there is no question that the islands are an integral part of the territory of Japan, and that Japan has always been exercising effective control over them. It is thus the position of the Government of Japan that no question of territorial title should arise with respect to those islands."

I further have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as an addendum to the above-mentioned report.

(Signed) Hisashi OWADA

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LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

In response to your letter of 10 February 1997, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

I have taken note of the position of your Government. I should in this context like to emphasize that the purpose of the report, which contains references to eight different maritime disputes, is simply to inform about the existence of the disputes, and that it should not be interpreted as taking a position in the disputes referred to.

I have decided to issue your letter and my response as an addendum to the report.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN